



**Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334**

Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 9/23/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

CCLC-11080

First Steps At Elberton

1638 Washington Highway Elberton, GA 30635 Elbert County
(706) 283-4820 tony_mills@att.net

Regional Consultant

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062

Fax: (770) 357-7061

kelly.jones@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated:

Compliance Zone Designation			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
09/23/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/19/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/01/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes	
Main	A-1L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning	
Main	B-1R	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	6	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Free Play	
Main	C-2R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	14	C	14	C	NA	NA	Centers	
Main	D-back		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA		
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		

Total # Children this Date: 29 Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50 Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground	115	C

Comments

The purpose for this visit was to complete a licensing study and to follow-up on the previous visit conducted on June 19, 2019.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/23/2019

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).



Please refer to the website, <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.aspx> , for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us.

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)



Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us

Michelle Mills, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3

Child # 1	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)-Parent Names, Work Numbers	
Child # 2	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(2)-Immunization	
Child # 3	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.08(1)-Emergency Contact information Missing	
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that one of five children's files did not have documentation of emergency contact persons and one and five children's files did not have documentation of the parent's name and work telephone numbers.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019**Finding**

591-1-1-.08(2) requires Center Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the center on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Center for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records that one of five children's files did not have evidence of a current immunization certificate on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will have and use a plan to track immunization forms for all enrolled children and to ensure the form or affidavit are obtained from the parent or guardian within 30 days of enrollment. Parents will be informed their child cannot remain enrolled in the center without this documentation.

Correction Deadline: 10/3/2019

	Facility
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591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms**Met****Comment**

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)**Met****Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.26 - The consultant discussed redistributing the mulch under the swings..

Finding

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the right fence measured approximately 3.8 feet in height.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2019

Recited on 9/23/2019

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.15(2)(a) requires Center Personnel to hold and feed infants less than six months of age and older children who cannot hold their own bottles or sit alone. Baby bottles shall never be propped; the infant's head shall be elevated while feeding. It was determined base on observation that one infant was in a swing with a sippy cup and one infant was in a bouncer with a bottle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to hold infants less than six months old or who can not hold their own bottle, to never prop bottles and to elevate infant's heads during feeding. The director will monitor Staff to ensure appropriate feeding procedures are followed.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019

Finding

591-1-1-.15(4) requires that a feeding chair or similar equipment designed for feeding children shall be provided for the use of each child being fed who is capable of sitting up but who is unable to sit unassisted at a table and must be cleaned with a disinfectant after each use. Such chair or similar equipment shall have a broad base to prevent tipping, a surface that the child cannot raise, a strap or other device which prevents the child from sliding out of the chair, and a feeding surface free of cracks. It was determined base on observation that one infant was in a swing with a sippy cup and one infant was in a bouncer with a bottle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will inspect feeding equipment to ensure it meets each of the listed criteria and to verify a feeding chair or equipment is provided for each child who requires one. The Center will train staff and monitor to ensure that the feeding equipment is cleaned with a disinfectant after each use.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals **Met**

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) **Met**

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) **Met**

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) **Met**

Comment

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30 - Discussed Infant Safe Sleep Policy with the teacher in the class to ensure she understood the policy, because she was a new infant teacher in the infant classroom.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 04/29/2004

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/11/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 08/14/2019

Staff # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 01/01/2005

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 5

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Comment**

Director provided 5 file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

Correction Deadline: 6/19/2019**Corrected on 9/23/2019**

.09(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant reviewed the staff files and observed that all staff had a current and Satisfactory and Comprehensive criminal background check on file.

Correction Deadline: 6/19/2019**Corrected on 9/23/2019**

.09(1)(c) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant reviewed the staff records and observed that all staff had a current and Satisfactory Comprehensive Criminal Records check on file.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kits observed in center and on vehicles.

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(b)3.(ii)(I)-(VIII) requires the Center develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's who do not possess the educational credential or degree listed in 591-1-1-.31(2)(b)2.(i) through (xii). It was determined based on a review of records that one newly hired teacher does not have the correct credentials to be the lead teacher and does not have a written plan on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop a written plan for newly hired teacher's and ensure that the teacher's follow the plan.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019**Finding**

591-1-1-.31(2)(c) requires the Center to maintain a copy and/or written verification of the credential or degree awarded to the lead teacher that is required by these rules in the lead teacher's file, to make the document available for inspection and to provide the document to Department staff upon request. It was determined based on a review of records that a lead teacher that was hired for the two year old classroom did not have a completed credential.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will review lead teacher records to ensure the required documentation is on file and will obtain and file it if not found.

Correction Deadline: 9/23/2019**Recited on 9/23/2019**

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

